

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAG ASSISTANCE TO YAR MILITARY

REF: JIDDA 3236

1. SUMMARY: DOD AND STATE WELCOME EMBASSY JIDDA'S PROPOSED APPROACH TO SAG ON YAR ARMS PROGRAM. TWO PRINCIPAL CHANGES ARE RECOMMENDED: A) DEFERRAL OF DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS OF NAVAL AND AIR ASPECTS OF PROGRAM FOR NOW, AND B) ADDITION OF PROPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE "IMPACT PACKAGE" OF ARMY EQUIPMENT. SHORTENED TEXT CAN BE CONSOLIDATED INTO SINGLE LETTER WITHOUT ATTACHMENTS. BOTH LETTER AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD STRESS CONCEPT THAT USG APPROACH IS TO RESPOND TO SAUDI PLANS RATHER THAN PROPOSE US PLANS, BUT THAT USG PREPARED TO ASSIST WHERE NEEDED. PARA 2 GIVES REVISED TEXT AND PARA 3 GIVES RATIONALE FOR CHANGES. IF CHANGES AGREEABLE EMBASSY JIDDA IS AUTHORIZED PROCEED WITH LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS.

2. FOLLOWING IS REVISED TEXT ACCEPTABLE TO DOD/STATE:

A. QUOTE: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS: RECALLING YOUR HIGHNESS'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IN MID-MAY THE SUBJECT OF MODERNIZING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE YEMEN

ARAB REPUBLIC, I HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO SUMMARIZE FOR YOUR HIGHNESS'S CONSIDERATION THE RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SURVEY OF YEMENI ARMED FORCES CONDUCTED LAST OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER BY A US MILITARY TEAM. THE TEAM WAS SENT TO YEMEN TO ASSESS THE PRESENT STATE OF THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES IN ORDER THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM YOUR HIGHNESS' GOVERNMENT FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING ONCE THE SAUDI ARABIAN TEAM HAD COMPLETED ITS OWN SURVEY AND HAD DETERMINED THE AREAS IN WHICH THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IS MOST URGENTLY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. HAVING COMPLETED THE REVIEW OF OUR SURVEY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOW STANDS READY TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF OFFER TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, AND
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TRAINING TO THE YAR WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO FUND. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT, FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT, ASSISTANCE SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A COMPREHENSIVE, WELL-ROUNDED PROGRAM WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE FORCE FOR THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IN THE FUTURE.

B. AS UNDER NORMAL U.S. GOVERNMENT FMS PROCEDURE, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL LETTERS OF OFFER FOR EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, OR SUPPORT SERVICES MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YAR FOR ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE. DELIVERIES WOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT LETTERS OF OFFER SHOULD INITIALLY BE PRESENTED

TO YOUR HIGHNESS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL PRIOR TO BEING SUBMITTED TO THE YAR. MOREOVER, SINCE THE FMS CASES WOULD BE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA, THE STATEMENT SHOWN BELOW WILL BE INCLUDED ON EACH LETTER OF OFFER (DD FORM 1513), FOR SIGNATURE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE LETTER OF OFFER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YAR, WHERE THE LETTERS OF OFFER MUST ULTIMATELY BE SIGNED AND ACCEPTED. THE STATEMENT FOR SIGNATURE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO SELL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC THE DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES LISTED IN THIS LETTER OF OFFER (FMS CASE DESIGNATOR) WHEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HEREBY UNCONDITIONALLY AGREES TO PAY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE TOTAL COSTS OF THE AFORESAID FMS CASE, WILL TENDER PROMPT PAYMENT OF ALL SUMS WHEN DUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE AFORESAID FMS CASE, AND TO THAT END HEREBY WAIVES ANY REQUIREMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MAKE ANY DEMAND UPON, OR GIVE

ANY NOTICE TO, THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC FOR SUCH PAYMENT. UNQUOTE.

C. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST YOUR HIGHNESS'S MINISTRY WITH DETAILED PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF REQUESTS FOR SECRET

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LETTERS OF OFFER, ONCE WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR APPROVED PLAN FOR MODERNIZING THE YAR ARMED FORCES.

D. IN ORDER TO MAKE A PROMPT START ON THIS PROGRAM, THE USG PROPOSES AN IMMEDIATE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PACKAGE OF ARMY ITEMS WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO YEMEN WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF SIGNED LETTERS OF OFFER. THIS PACKAGE (SOURCE FROM REBUILD WHERE INDICATED) WOULD BE COMPOSED OF: (100) .45 CALIBER PISTOLS (REBUILD), (50) .30 CAL MACHINE GUNS (REBUILD), (50) 3.5 INCH ROCKET LAUNCHERS (REBUILD), (500) M72 LAW, (4) 4.2 INCH MORTARS (REBUILD), (1000) PRIMARY AND (1000) RESERVE T-10 PERSONNEL PARACHUTES, (5) T-7 WHEELED TRACTORS WITH RIPPER AND WINCH (REBUILD), AND 30 DAY BASIC LOAD OF AMMUNITION FOR EACH WEAPON. THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THESE ITEMS, NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, IS APPROXIMATELY 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS. WE ARE READY TO INITIATE IMMEDIATE PREPARATION OF LETTERS OF OFFER.

E. AS A SECOND EARLY STEP, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT (1300) M-14 RIFLES (REBUILD) WITH

A 30 DAY BASIC LOAD OF AMMUNITION WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF A SIGNED LETTER OF OFFER.

F. WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT SELECTED ITEMS OF ARMY ENGINEER EQUIPMENT WITHIN 14-16 MONTHS OF SIGNED LETTER OF OFFER. THIS COULD INCLUDE (5) D8 TRACTORS, (5) D4 TRACTORS, (3) GRADERS, (3) ROLLERS (REBUILD), (3) POWERSHOVELS (REBUILD), (12) CONCRETE MIXERS, (6) CRUSHING AND SCREENING PLANTS, (3) WELL DRILLING MACHINES, AND (8) GENERATORS. WITHIN 24 TO 27 MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE ON LETTERS OF OFFER WE COULD MAKE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT (50) M35A2 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS, (12) TRACTORS WITH 5TH WHEEL, AND (18) M817 DUMP TRUCKS.

G. THE USG IS WILLING TO OFFER SALE FROM REBUILD OF NON-STANDARD OR PROCUREMENT OF STANDARD AS APPROPRIATE WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND VEHICLES TO EQUIP ONE YEMENI INFANTRY BRIGADE AS A FIRST UNIT TO BE MODERNIZED UNDER THE SAUDI PLAN. FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE NEED THE VIEWS OF THE SAUDI SECRET

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GOVERNMENT ON THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT OF THIS FIRST BRIGADE, SO THAT WE MAY PROPOSE APPROPRIATE LETTERS OF OFFER. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT EQUIPMENT SELECTED FOR THIS BRIGADE BE COMPATIBLE, IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, WITH EXISTING YEMENI EQUIPMENT TO PRECLUDE A SUPPORTABILITY PROBLEM.

H. WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITABLE YEMENIS FOR TRAINING IN AMERICAN MILITARY SCHOOLS, WE BELIEVE THAT TRAINING IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN YEMEN ITSELF AND IN SAUDI ARABIA. FOR SHORT PERIODS WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SMALL US MILITARY TRAINING TEAMS IN YEMEN ON A MILITARY SALES BASIS IF YOU DEEM THIS DESIRABLE. A SMALL TEAM COULD BE DISPATCHED TO ASSIST YAR IN USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN ALREADY IN YEMEN, AT APPROXIMATELY THE TIME OF ARRIVAL OF THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IMMEDIATE PACKAGE.

I. WE BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPMENT OF YEMENI AIR AND NAVAL FORCES IS IMPORTANT, GIVEN THE STRATEGIC LOCATION OF YEMEN, BUT AGREE THAT FIRST PRIORITY ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENT OF GROUND FORCES AND PLANNING FOR THEIR SUPPORT. HOWEVER, SINCE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR AND NAVAL FORCES REQUIRES GREATER TIME, WE BELIEVE EARLY DISCUSSIONS ON LONG-RANGE PROGRAMS ARE DESIRABLE TO ASSURE BALANCED TRI-SERVICE GROWTH IN THE FUTURE. IF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT IS AGREEABLE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS SPECIFIC INITIAL STEPS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF YEMENI AIR AND NAVAL FORCES. IN GENERAL TERMS, THE US GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES SHOULD GOVERN PLANS FOR YEMENI AIR AND NAVAL

FORCES:

1) COMMONALITY OF EQUIPMENT BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE YAR;

2) JOINT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, I.E., YAR USE OF SAUDI MAINTENANCE FACILITIES;

3) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATION NETS, RADAR NETS AND A SYSTEM OF AIRCRAFT NAVIGATIONAL AIDS TO COVER THE YAR;
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4) AN EARLY START ON TRAINING OF YEMENI PILOTS;

5) EXPANSION OF EXISTING SAUDI NAVAL TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER SNEP TO INCLUDE A NUMBER OF YEMENIS.

J. WE BELIEVE THAT A MEANINGFUL, WELL-ROUNDED MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL NOT ONLY ASSIST IN STABILIZING THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC BUT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURITY OF

THE REGION. WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE YOUR HIGHNESS HAS SO WISELY TAKEN IN THIS AREA, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WITH YOU ON THIS SUBJECT: I WOULD WELCOME A DETAILED STATEMENT OF YOUR OWN VIEWS ON PROGRAMS WHICH YOUR HIGHNESS'S GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE. WITH WARM PERSONAL WISHES,
SINCERELY, JAMES E. AKINS, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. UNQUOTE.

3. RATIONALE FOR CHANGES PROPOSED:

A) ASSISTANCE TO SAG IN FINALIZING REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF OFFER: DOD/STATE APPROACH IS TO FLESH OUT, IN WASHINGTON, DETAILS OF GENERALIZED SAUDI REQUESTS BASED ON SAUDI STUDIES. WE BELIEVE SAUDIS CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING OWN BROAD PLANS. WE BELIEVE DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO SAUDIS, THEREFORE, NOT AT PRESENT NECESSARY. QUESTION OF FUNDING US PERSONNEL (REFTEL - BASIC LETTER - PARA 4), THEREFORE, NOT OF IMMEDIATE RELEVANCE.

B) IMPACT PACKAGE (PARA 2.D. ABOVE): DOD/STATE BELIEVE ADDITION OF SMALL SPECIFIC PACKAGE OF EQUIPMENT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION WILL SERVE TO STIMULATE BEGINNING OF ACTUAL MOVEMENT ON OVERALL MODERNIZATION. THIS CAN BE FIRST PHASE OF GRADUALLY EXPANDING PROGRAM. PACKAGE WILL SYMBOLIZE BOTH USG AND SAG COMMITMENT TO OVERALL PROGRAM, AND WILL BE TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF COMMITMENT TO YARG. PACKAGE IS SUFFICIENTLY BASIC AND LIMITED TO FIT APPROPRIATELY INTO WHATEVER BROAD PLAN SAG WISHES TO PURSUE.

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C) FURTHER STEPS (PARAS 2.E., F., G. ABOVE): CONCEPT IS GRADUALLY TO EXPAND PROGRAM IN COHESIVE FASHION. FIRST MAJOR STEP (PARA 2.E.) AFTER IMPACT PACKAGE - 1300 RIFLES WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF LETTER OF OFFER - IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BASIC INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS FOR FIRST MODERNIZED YEMENI BRIGADE. OTHER EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS BRIGADE (PARA 2.G.) DEPENDS ON USG STUDY OF SAUDI-PROPOSED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT. WE CONSIDER EMBASSY HOPE INFANTRY BRIGADE CAN BE FULLY EQUIPPED IN NEAR FUTURE, (REFTEL - ARMY RECOMMENDATIONS - PARA 2) TO BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. PRIOR TO THIS, HOWEVER, USG CAN PROVIDE SPECIFIC ENGINEER EQUIPMENT (PARA 2.F.).

D) TRAINING, GENERAL CONCEPT: WE BELIEVE TRAINING SHOULD BE CONDUCTED TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE IN YEMEN ITSELF BY JORDANIANS IN YAR AND IN SAUDI SCHOOLS. WE CONCUR EMBASSY COMMENTS (REFTEL - ARMY RECOMMENDATIONS - PARA 3) PROPOSING IT ENCOURAGE CONTINUATION OF JORDANIAN ASSISTANCE MISSION, AND INVOLVEMENT OF LIMITED NUMBERS OF SAUDI PERSONNEL.

E) TRAINING, US ROLE: THE FY 76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUEST WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS SHORTLY INCLUDES A PROPOSED NEW CONUS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YAR OFFICERS. THE FUNDING LEVEL IS NOT YET FIRM, BUT WILL BE IN THE DOLLARS 50,000 TO DOLLARS 100,000 RANGE ANNUALLY FOR FY 76 AND 77. WE SUSPECT THE LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF YAR OFFICERS WITH ADEQUATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS WILL MAKE THIS FUNDING LEVEL SUFFICIENT. SHOULD ADDITIONAL CONUS TRAINING NEVERTHELESS PROVE FEASIBLE WE WOULD EXPECT SAG FUNDING.

F) AIR FORCE AND NAVY RECOMMENDATIONS: DOD/STATE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE TO CONCENTRATE ON SAUDI COMMITMENTS TO SPECIFICS OF ARMY MODERNIZATION, WHILE AT SAME TIME AFFIRMING PRINCIPLE OF BALANCED TRI-SERVICE DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL MORE LIKELY RESULT IN PROMPT POSITIVE SAUDI ACTION. US RECOMMENDATIONS ON AIR FORCE AND NAVY MODERNIZATION WILL FOLLOW WITHIN A SHORT TIME IF SAUDI RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER IS ENCOURAGING.

4. FOR EMBASSY JIDDA: IF YOU OR EMBASSY SANA PERCEIVE NO
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PROBLEMS, EMBASSY JIDDA MAY PROCEED WITH PLAN TO PRESENT LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN, PROVIDING COPY OF LETTER TO STATE AND DEFENSE.

5. FOR EMBASSY SANA: YOUR COMMENTS REQUESTED. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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